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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /096 W
----------055952 202347Z /63
R 200643Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6461
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 04640

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
DOE PASS AMMONS, IA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ENRG
SUBJECT: CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR FUSION RESEARCH

REF: VIENNA 4438

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT SOVIETS FOLLOWED UP THEIR LETTER MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL WITH FOLLOWING ADDENDUM: "THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT AND TIMELY TO DEVELOP AND BUILD A NEXT GENERATION FUSION DEVICE (EXPERIMENTAL TOKAMAK REACTOR) ON A MULTINATIONAL BASIS AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA). THE USSR CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SET UP IMMEDIATELY A GROUP OF EXPERTS AT THE IAEA TO STUDY THE PROBLEM AND INITIATE A PROJECT. ON ITS PART, THE USSR IS READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND TO
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PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE PROJECT ON THE SOVIET TERRITORY."

2. INTERNATIONAL FUSION RESEARCH COUNCIL WHICH MET LAST WEEK IN VIENNA, REPORTEDLY SENT FOLLOWING NOTE TO IAEA DIRGEN: "THE IFRC CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET UNION TO DEVELOP AND BUILD A NEXT GENERATION FUSION DEVICE OF THE TOKAMAK TYPE ON A MULTI-NATIONAL BASIS UNDER THE

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AUSPICES OF THE AGENCY AND TO SET UP A GROUP OF EXPERTS
BY THE AGENCY TO STUDY THE PROBLEM AND INITIATE A PROJECT.

"THE IFRC WELCOMES THIS SOVIET PROPOSAL, AND WISHES TO
EXAMINE IT IN DEPTH AND TO REPORT ON IT TO THE DG AFTER ITS
NEXT MEETING IN AUGUST.
"TO THIS END THE IFRC HAS SET UP A SUB-GROUP OF MEMBERS OF
THE IFRC TO SUGGEST OBJECTIVES OF THE NEXT STEP, THE TERMS
OF REFERENCE AND THE MEANS OF REALIZATION AS PROPOSED BY
THE SOVIET UNION.

"THE SUB-GROUP CONSISTS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IFRC
TOGETHER WITH ONE MEMBER FROM EUROPE, JAPAN, USA, USSR AND
THE IAEA. THE SUB-GROUP WILL REPORT TO THE IFRC AT ITS
NEXT MEETING IN INNSBRUCK.

"THE IFRC RECOMMENDS THAT THE DG WRITE TO THOSE MEMBER
STATES TO WHOM WAS SENT HIS LETTER OF 17 JANUARY CONCERN-
ING THE FUTURE OF THE FUSION RESEARCH PROGRAM. THE LETTER
COULD INFORM THEM OF THE GENERAL SUPPORT, IN THE REPLIES
SO FAR RECEIVED, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE CLOSELY
COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AND SHOULD
INCLUDE THE TEXT OF THE RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET UNION."

3. MISSION HAS NOTED IN PARA 9 OF STATE 110315 (NOTAL)
PROVIDING COMMENTS ON IAEA PROGRAM FOR 1979-84 AND
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BUDGET FOR 1979 FOLLOWING COMMENT RELATING TO PARAS G.43-44
OF AGENCY'S PROGRAM AND BUDGET DOCUMENT: "THE U.S.
SUPPORTS INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FUSION
ENERGY RESEARCH AS VITAL TO SUCCESS IN FUSION DEVELOPMENT.
MANY ADVANTAGES ARE TO BE GAINED FROM INTERNATIONALIZATION
OF A MAJOR R AND D PROGRAM. JOINT RESEARCH CAN BE SHARED
AMONG PARTICIPATING NATIONS AND THE RESULTS SHARED BY ALL."

4. AGENCY HAS TAKEN FOREGOING U.S. COMMENT AS INDICATING
A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO DIRGEN'S LETTER OF JANUARY 17,
ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR TO MISSION THAT THIS WAS
INTENDED TO BE A RESPONSE TO THAT LETTER. MISSION WOULD
APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY IN
VIEW OF SOVIET MOVES TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF THIS PRO-
POSED ACTIVITY.

5. PLEASE ADVISE. LABOWITZ

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